

## DOE Funding Promotes Greater Innovation for End-Use Natural Gas Appliances

News Release April 23, 2019

Washington, DC – The American Gas Association (AGA) praised the Department of Energy's (DOE) [announcement](#) today of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Frontiers & Innovation Technologies (BENEFIT) 2019 Funding Opportunity (FOA) for up to \$47 million for flexible and energy-efficient technologies for residential and commercial buildings.

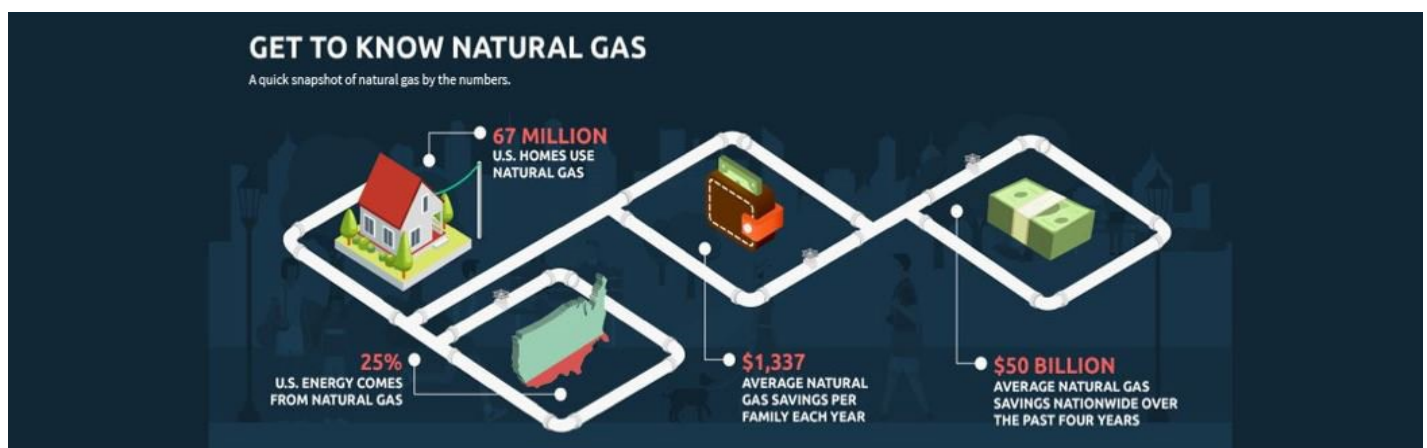
"These research and development investments are necessary for continued advancement of next-generation natural gas technologies to make them widely available to consumers," said AGA's President and CEO, Karen Harbert. "Advanced natural gas technologies in homes and businesses enable customers to save money and reduce their environmental footprint."

Increased use of natural gas has contributed to U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions among the lowest levels in 25 years. This will continue as Americans use more natural gas and get more energy from it through the development of increasingly more efficient appliances, tighter-fitting windows and doors, better insulation and utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs.

DOE notes that, "residential and commercial buildings account for approximately 40% of the Nation's total energy demand." While natural gas utilities nationwide add one new customer every single minute, natural gas use per customer is declining. Since 1970, gas utilities have added 30 million more residential customers with virtually no increases in emissions.

AGA released a [report](#) last year that unveiled more than 100 innovative natural gas technologies for the residential/commercial market, with a greenhouse gas reduction potential of 25-40 percent on a customer basis through integration of these technologies and other efficiency practices.

The Environmental Protection Agency's annual Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2017 released earlier this month reveals that greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas distribution systems have decreased even as the size of the system has grown significantly. Methane emissions from distribution systems declined 73 percent from 1990 levels.



# 2018 SNAPSHOT OF THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

Below is a recent Report that provides a “Snapshot” of the Natural Gas industry as well as highlights the hiring challenges within the natural gas industry. If you have been struggling to find qualified workers, you are not alone. Your Blue Flame Gas Assn. is working to include technical/community colleges in the Blue Flame Lodge at the State Fair to highlight and encourage people to consider the natural gas field.

2018 Industry Stats	Contribution to GDP in 2018: <b>\$199.13 billion</b>
	Overall employment: <b>625,369</b>
	Natural gas generation through November 2018: <b>1,362,996 GWh</b>
	<b>End-use consumption of natural gas through November 2018 by:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Deliveries to electric power consumers: <b>37.6%</b></li> <li>⇒ Industrial: <b>27.9%</b></li> <li>⇒ Residential: <b>14.9%</b></li> <li>⇒ Deliveries to commercial consumers: <b>10.9%</b></li> <li>⇒ ease and plant fuel: <b>5.9%</b></li> <li>⇒ Pipeline and distribution use: <b>2.7%</b></li> <li>⇒ Vehicle fuel: <b>0.1%</b></li> </ul>
2018 Work Trends	<b>Overall Difficulty Hiring:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ <b>75.7%</b> of natural gas firms have had <u>difficulty</u> in hiring</li> <li>⇒ <b>32.1%</b> have reported hiring was <u>very difficult</u></li> </ul>
	<b>Most Difficult Industries for Hiring:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Construction: <b>(81.4%)</b></li> <li>⇒ Other: <b>(81.8%)</b></li> </ul>
	<b>Most Difficult Occupations for Hiring:</b>
	⇒ Technical/mechanical support: <b>(40.7%)</b> (cited twice as much as the next most cited occupation)
	<b>Reasons for Hiring Difficulty for Firms Dealing with Natural Gas:</b>
	⇒ Lack of experience, training, or technical skills <b>(46.3%)</b>
	⇒ Insufficient non-technical skills <b>(22.2%)</b>
	⇒ Insufficient qualifications (certifications or education) <b>(16.7%)</b>
	⇒ Competition/small applicant pool <b>(15.7%)</b>
	<b>Average Median Full-Time Hourly Wage Distribution:</b>
	⇒Entry level workers: <b>\$18.20/hour</b>
	⇒Mid-Wage workers: <b>\$26.03/hour</b>
	⇒Highest Earners: <b>\$39.92/hour</b>

**SOURCE:** The 2019 US Energy & Employment Report A Joint Project of Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

## Blue Flame Advertising Opportunities

Support the Association and the Industry while reaching hundreds of natural gas industry professionals. Complete the Advertising Form linked below to let us know which Advertising Opportunities you would like to take advantage of including the **next addition of the Association Newsletter.**

[ADVERTISING FORM](#)

## Hello from Annette!

It's been a whirlwind four months since I started managing the MN Blue Flame Gas Association. We are all very excited to have the opportunity to serve you and work with this association. Here's a brief introduction of who you may talk to if you call:

I have served as the President and CEO of Minnesota Utility Investors (MUI) since 2001. I also am a Certified Association Executive (CAE). Because of my other job I am already familiar with Minnesota's natural gas industry but anxious to learn more.

Lana Leonard has been with me for eight years and manages the database, website and is our graphic designer.

Heidi Hickey has been with me for four years and works on membership and event planning.

Together we hope to build on the great work already in place and make the MN Blue Flame Gas Association bigger, stronger and brighter. Please don't be shy about contacting us with ideas and suggestions.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming events!

Annette Henkel

President

## Mark Your 2019 Calendars

### Tuesday, June 4

Blue Flame Fishing Event — Mille Lacs Lake

[Register Here](#)

### Thursday, June 13

Blue Flame Golf Event — Cannon Falls Golf Club

[Register Here](#)

### Thursday, Aug. 22-Labor Day, Monday Sept. 2

Blue Flame Lodge at the MN State Fair— Exhibit Space

Available [Click here for more information](#)

### Monday, September 17

Commercial/Industrial Fall Energy Conservation Conference — Mendakota Country Club

## Quote of the Quarter



## New Blue Flame Contact Info — Have you updated your records?

Blue Flame's contact information as of Jan. 1, 2019:

Address: **413 Wacouta Street, Suite 230,**

**Saint Paul, MN 55101**

Email: [ahenkel@blueflame.org](mailto:ahenkel@blueflame.org)

Phone: **763.424.1841 (Remained the same)**

## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ASSOCIATION?

Associate members are \$200 per year.

Join the team now!

### Benefits to Joining:

- Website exposure on Blue Flame website (Natural Gas Product Finder)
- Networking Opportunities
- Industry Contacts
- Advertising Opportunities
- Member rates for Association events

[Join Here](#)

## INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMITTEE?

The State Fair Committee is in need of additional members.

(763) 424-1841 or

[ahenkel@blueflame.org](mailto:ahenkel@blueflame.org)

## Have something to submit? E-mail change?

If you would like to submit information to be considered for the next member newsletter or have an email change, contact Annette at [ahenkel@blueflame.org](mailto:ahenkel@blueflame.org)